



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2018

LCO No. 5448



Offered by:

REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.

REP. LAVIELLE, 143rd Dist.

SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.

SEN. BOUCHER, 26th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **5449**

File No. 448

Cal. No. 319

***"AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND THE PROVISION OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES BY THE OFFICE OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD."***

1 Strike section 2 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

2 "Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) (a) As used in this subsection,
3 "early care and education and childhood development programs"
4 includes the child care subsidy program, established pursuant to
5 section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the
6 school readiness program, as defined in section 10-16p of the general
7 statutes, as amended by this act, the supplemental quality
8 enhancement grant program, established pursuant to section 17b-749c
9 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the Nurturing Families
10 Network, established pursuant to section 17b-751b of the general
11 statutes, as amended by this act, and the program for state financial

12 assistance for neighborhood facilities, including child care centers,
13 pursuant to section 8-210 of the general statutes, as amended by this
14 act.

15 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and each fiscal year
16 thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may expend in any
17 year an amount not to exceed two per cent of the total amount
18 appropriated to the office for early care and education and child
19 development programs for the purpose of carrying out its
20 responsibilities pursuant to section 10-500 of the general statutes, as
21 amended by this act, including, but not limited to, piloting innovative
22 and results-driven service delivery, program evaluation and
23 improvement, funding and procurement models that are performance-
24 driven and results-accountable, interagency coordination and
25 collaboration and evaluative tools and infrastructure, provided if the
26 total amount of such two per cent exceeds one million dollars, all
27 funds in excess of one million dollars shall be used for service delivery.
28 The commissioner may not expend any funds under this section for
29 administrative or other overhead costs of the Office of Early
30 Childhood. The commissioner may develop policies and procedures to
31 implement the provisions of this section.

32 (c) Not later than January first of each year, the office shall submit a
33 report relating to how the commissioner has expended funds pursuant
34 to subsection (b) of this section to the joint standing committee of the
35 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
36 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
37 statutes. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the
38 results of any program evaluations conducted by the office, (2) an
39 assessment of the relationship between the cost and the value of the
40 service delivery outcomes achieved, and (3) any policies and
41 procedures developed by the commissioner to implement the
42 provisions of this section."

43 Strike lines 150 to 194, inclusive, in their entirety and insert the
44 following in lieu thereof:

45 "(c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
46 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards
47 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility
48 system with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary
49 family assistance who are employed or engaged in employment
50 activities under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First"
51 program, (B) working families whose temporary family assistance was
52 discontinued not more than five years prior to the date of application
53 for the child care subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income
54 working families, (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted
55 from the Department of Children and Families and who are granted a
56 waiver of income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
57 this section, (F) working families who are at risk of welfare
58 dependency, and (G) any household with a child or children
59 participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership federal
60 grant program for a period of up to twelve months based on Early
61 Head Start eligibility criteria; (2) health and safety standards for child
62 care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system
63 for child care services which account for differences in the age of the
64 child, number of children in the family, the geographic region and type
65 of care provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and
66 type of services provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers,
67 successful completion of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or
68 credentialing of child care directors and administrators, and program
69 accreditation; (4) supplemental payment for special needs of the child
70 and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process
71 for providers which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained
72 at levels which permit equal access to a variety of child care settings;
73 (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an
74 administrative appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process
75 to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions
76 and recover overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and
77 payment eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care
78 subsidy experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other
79 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy

80 program that (A) allows the commissioner to exercise discretion in
 81 prioritizing within and between existing priority groups, including,
 82 but not limited to, children described in 45 CFR 98.46, as amended
 83 from time to time, and households with an infant or toddler, and (B)
 84 reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of
 85 this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion of
 86 this information in the annual report required to be issued annually by
 87 the office to the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance
 88 with section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be limited to,
 89 family income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such
 90 waiting list."

91 Strike section 8 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

92 "Sec. 8. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the
 93 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
 94 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

95 (b) (1) For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2015, [and each
 96 fiscal year thereafter] to June 30, 2019, inclusive, the per child cost of
 97 the Office of Early Childhood school readiness program offered by a
 98 school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand nine
 99 hundred twenty-seven dollars. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020,
 100 and each fiscal year thereafter, the commissioner may establish, within
 101 available appropriations, new rates for the school readiness program,
 102 provided such new rates are established to improve program quality
 103 and access. The commissioner may revise the rates for the school
 104 readiness program during a fiscal year if the commissioner determines
 105 that such revised rates are necessary to improve quality of, increase
 106 access to or fill spaces in school readiness programs."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	10-16q(b)(1)